In the Claims

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

storing a most-recent episode of a series of digital content published at a first time in a playback device, wherein the episode is no greater than a predetermined playback time;

automatically selecting a subsequent episode of the series of the digital content published at a second time, wherein the subsequent episode is no greater than a predetermined playback time; and

storing the subsequent episode in the playback device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the predetermined playback time is approximately equal to a maximum playback time designated by the user for the particular digital content.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

storing a first subset of digital content;

consuming a portion of the first subset of digital content; and

automatically selecting a second subset of digital content to update the consumed portion of the first subset of digital content, wherein the unconsumed portion of the first subset of digital content and the second subset of digital content together provide a playback time approximately equal to a playback time of the first subset of digital content.

35. (Previously Presented) A network comprising:

a server device to store digital content and to provide the digital content to other devices on the network;

a data retrieval device coupled with the server device; and

a playback device to store and to playback the digital content coupled with the data retrieval device, the playback device to store a most-recent episode of a dynamically changing series of digital content, and to have the digital content automatically updated from the server device with a subsequent episode of the series of digital content to store on the playback device.

36. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 wherein the server device is to automatically push the subsequent episode of the series of digital content to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

37. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 wherein the data retrieval device is to automatically retrieve the subsequent episode of the series of digital content from the server device to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

38. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 wherein the playback device is to automatically retrieve the subsequent episode of the series of digital content from the server device to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

39. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 further comprising the playback device to store a first subset of digital content, to consume a portion of the first subset of digital content, and to have the digital content automatically updated from the server device with a second subset of digital content, wherein the unconsumed portion of the first subset of digital content and the second subset of digital content together provide a playback time approximately equal to a playback time of the first subset of digital content.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming comprising:

retrieving multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;

storing the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback; and

storing a subset of one or more of the multiple titles of media content in a playback device, wherein the subsets of the multiple titles of media content are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the media content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular audio content.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of storing a subset of the media content further comprises:

determining a selected segment length;

determining a selected particular media content; and

storing a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device having a length of the selected segment length.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the media content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment from a series of audio content having multiple segments.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the media content further comprises:

selecting a segment of the media content;

storing a portion of the media content in a playback device;

determining an amount of the portion of the media content consumed, if any; and

storing a subsequent portion of the media content corresponding to the amount of the portion of media content consumed in the playback device.

46.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

means for retrieving multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;

means for storing in the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback; and

means for storing a subset of one or more of the multiple titles of media content in a playback device, wherein the subsets of the multiple titles of media content are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

47.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the means for storing a subset of the content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular content.

48.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

49.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the means for storing a subset of the content further comprises:

means for determining a selected segment length;

means for determining a selected particular content; and

means for storing a segment of the selected particular content in the playback device having a length of the selected segment length.

50.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the means for storing a subset of the content includes means for automatically storing a most recent segment in a static content.

51.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the means for storing a subset of the content further comprises:

     means for selecting a static content;

     means for storing a portion of the static content in a playback device;

     means for determining an amount of the portion of the static content consumed, if any; and

     means for storing a subsequent portion of the static content corresponding to the amount of the portion of static content consumed in the playback device.

52.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors cause an electronic device to:

     retrieve multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;

     store in the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback; and

     store a subset of one or more of the multiple titles of media content in a playback device, wherein the subsets of the multiple titles of media content are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

53.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to automatically store a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular media content.

54.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to:

determine a selected segment length;

determine a selected particular media content; and

store a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device having a length of the selected segment length.

55. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to automatically store a most recent segment in a static media content.

56. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to:

select a static media content;

store a portion of the static media content in a playback device;

determining an amount of the portion of the static media content consumed, if any; and

store a subsequent portion of the static media content corresponding to the amount of the portion of static media content consumed in the playback device.

57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

a library access device to provide access to a library;

a storage device coupled to the library access device to store content retrieved from the library; and

a playback device having a memory and an interface coupled to the storage device; wherein the playback device stores a selected content that is a subset of the content stored by the storage device, and further wherein the selected content is determined automatically based on predetermined user content selections.

58.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the library access device is a personal computer.

59.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the library access device is an Internet terminal.

60.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the library access device is a dedicated audio library access device.

61.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

62.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the storage device is an optical disc.

63.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the storage device is a flash memory.

64.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the playback device memory comprises flash memory.

65.   (Currently Amended) A playback device comprising:
        a memory to store a plurality of digital content selections;
        logic to maintain a head pointer identifying a logical beginning of each selection in memory; and
        logic circuitry, coupled to the memory, to maintain ~~multiple~~ a content counter[[s]], wherein the counter[[s]] is initially set to the head pointer of the corresponding selection and wherein the counter advances through the corresponding selection in memory during a rendering session. ~~indicate a current location of consumption for corresponding digital content.~~

66.   (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 65 wherein digital content corresponding to the respective content ~~counters~~ counter is updated based, at least in part, on the respective content ~~counters~~ counter.

67.   (Previously Presented) The playback device of claim 65 further comprising an interface coupled to the memory, the interface to receive digital content from a remote source.

68.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

    storing digital content including portions of multiple content files for subsequent playback;

    designating portions of memory in a playback device for storage of data of a particular content file;

    storing at least a subset of the portions of multiple content files in a playback device, wherein data from a first content file is stored in a first portion of memory ~~and data from a second content file is stored a second portion of memory~~; and

    automatically storing data from ~~the~~ a second content file in the first portion of memory designated for storage of data of the first content file when at least a part of data from the first content file stored in the first portion of memory is consumed.

69.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein storing data from the second content file in the first portion of memory is performed automatically based, at least in part, on consumption of the subset of the first content file.

70.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming comprising:

    retrieving digital media content from a library, said library residing on a distributable mass storage medium;

storing the digital media content for subsequent playback; and

storing a subset of the digital media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of digital media content is automatically selected to update consumed digital media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

71.   (Canceled)

72.   (New) The playback device of claim 65, further comprising logic to maintain a tail pointer identifying a logical end of each selection.

73.   (New) The playback device of claim 65, further comprising logic to set each head pointer to a current location of rendering in the selection as identified by the content counter at an end of the rendering session.

74.   (New) The playback device of claim 65, further comprising logic to render the selections.

75.   (New) A method comprising:

storing a plurality of digital content selections;

maintaining a head pointer for each selection that identifies a logical beginning of the corresponding selection; and

maintaining a content counter comprising:

setting the content counter to the head pointer of a current selection to be rendered during a rendering session; and

advancing the content counter through the current selection during the rendering session.

76.   (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising:

maintaining a tail pointer for each selection that identifies a logical ending of the corresponding selection.

77.   (New) The method of claim 75, wherein maintaining the content counter further comprises:

setting the head pointer of the current selection to a current location of rendering in the current selection as identified by the content counter at an end of the rendering session.

78.   (New) The method of claim 75, wherein digital content corresponding to the respective content counter is updated based, at least in part, on the respective content counter.